

Annual Report

on the Sanitary Condition of the Thorne
Rural District . 1940

By

J. M. TAYLOR, M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

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W. V. WIGLEY AND SON, PRINTERS, MARKET PLACE

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*To the Chairman and Members of the
Thorne Rural District Council*

Gentlemen,

In accordance with instructions in circular 2314, dated March 26th, 1941, the Annual Report for 1940 is made as short as possible.

The Report contains only those figures and calculations which are necessary for continuity of records.

The Birth Rate at 21.31 per 1,000 population is higher than in 1939, when it was 20.4.

The adjusted Death Rate is 14.79. In 1939 the rate was 12.76. Deaths of people temporarily resident in the district are included in these figures.

The Infantile Mortality Rate at 74.8 per 1,000 Live Births is slightly less than that for 1939, when it was 77.4.

The number of Diphtheria cases has risen to 110, a considerable increase from last year's figure of 70.

Yours obediently,

J. M. TAYLOR,

10th September, 1941

Medical Officer of Health

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SANITARY CONDITION OF THE THORNE RURAL DISTRICT FOR 1940

General Statistics relating to the Rural District

The Rural District comprises five civil parishes, and has an area of 38,419 acres.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population for the year 1940 is 29,280.

The total number of inhabited houses in the district at the end of 1940, according to the rate books, was 7,149.

The Rateable Value of the district is £116,949.

The sum represented by a penny rate is £401.

Vital Statistics

In considering the Birth, Death and other rates which have been calculated for 1940, the following arrangements, which have been made by the Registrar-General, must be borne in mind.

(1) Non-Civilian Deaths. will not be assigned to local administrative areas, but will be tabulated for the whole of England and Wales and included as a separate class in the annual reports issued by the Registrar-General.

Non-civilians are defined as all males serving in H.M. Armed Forces. They do not include women serving in auxiliary corps, nor any members of A.R.P. auxiliary fire brigade or other similar auxiliary or civil defence services.

(2) Transferable Deaths. Up to 30th September, 1939, the pre-war practice of transference to area of usual residence has been maintained.

From and after 1st October, 1939, in the case of a person temporarily residing away from home on account of the war, the death will not be transferred to the area of usual residence but will be assigned to the area of temporary residence. Where such a person dies in an Institution the assignment will likewise be to the area of temporary residence.

(3) Transferable Births. Up to 30th September, 1939, the pre-war practice of transference to areas of the mother's usual residence has been maintained.

From and after 1st October, the primary assignment for the purpose of calculating birth rates will be likewise in accordance with pre-war practice, but for the purposes of calculating infant and maternal mortality a secondary assignment will be made corresponding to that adopted for deaths, viz.: to that area in which a mother may be temporarily residing as a result of the war.

Medical Officers will accordingly be supplied with two sets of birth figures when the annual distribution of vital statistics is made

Births

The estimate of population supplied by the Registrar General for calculating the birth rate is 29,280.

The total number of births during 1940 was 624.

Of these 323 were males and 301 were females.

Legitimate births numbered 585.

Of these legitimate births 307 were males and 278 females.

Illegitimate births numbered 39, 16 being males and 23 females.

The birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 21.31.

The birth rate per 1,000 of the population for England is 14.6.

The total number of stillbirths was 24.

Of these 10 were males and 14 females; and all were legitimate.

The stillbirth rate for the district per 1,000 total (live and still) births is 37.

The stillbirth rate for the district per 1,000 population is 0.82.

Deaths

The total number of Deaths during 1940 was 314.

Of these 181 were males and 133 females.

The estimate of population to be used for calculation of the death rate is 29,280.

The actual or crude death rate for the district is 10.72 per 1,000 population.

The Registrar-General supplies a comparability factor of 1.38.

The adjusted death rate is 14.79.

The death rate for England is 14.3.

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year

The total number was 47.

Of these 34 were males and 13 females.

34 males and 8 females were legitimate.

5 females were illegitimate.

The death rate of infants under one year per 1,000 live births is 74.8.

The number of births used in making this estimate is 628.

The death rate for England is 55.

The death rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births is 71.3.

The death rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births is 125.6.

The following table gives the Infantile Death Rate for the last five years:—

1936	...	78.5	per 1,000 births
1937	....	92.4	.. ..
1938	....	61.9	.. ..
1939	..	77.4	.. ..
1940		74.8	.. ..

Fifteen of the deaths of infants were due to premature births and congenital abnormalities.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 39
 Deaths from Measles (all ages) 3
 Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 1
 Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) 7

DEATHS FROM PUEPERAL CAUSES:

From Sepsis, 3

Other causes, 2

The death rate from puerperal causes per 1,000 total (live and still) births is 7·6

The death rate from puerperal causes per 1,000 live births is 7·9.

Causes of Death in the Thorne Rural District, as supplied by the Registrar-General

Causes of Death		M	F
All causes	....	181	132
Whooping Cough	....	1	0
Diphtheria	....	5	3
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	....	7	7
Other forms of Tuberculosis	....	2	1
Syphilitic Diseases	....	3	1
Influenza	....	5	7
Measles	....	0	3
Cancer of Buccal Cavity, Oesophagus and Uterus	....	2	3
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	....	5	1
Cancer of Breast	....	0	4
Cancer of all other sites	....	13	11
Diabetes	....	1	3
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	....	17	15
Heart Disease	....	29	21
Other Diseases of circulatory system	....	4	3
Bronchitis	....	16	2
Pneumonia	....	18	12
Other respiratory diseases	....	3	0
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	....	2	0
Diarhoea (under 2 years)	....	3	3
Appendicitis	....	0	0
Other Digestive Diseases	....	7	3
Nephritis	....	3	2
Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis	....	0	3
Other maternal causes	....	0	2
Premature Birth	....	7	1
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, Infantile Diseases	....	5	2
Suicide	....	0	2
Road Traffic Accidents	....	2	1
Other violent causes	....	10	5
All other causes	....	11	11

Notifiable Diseases during the Year (other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	56	13	0
Diphtheria	110	107	8
Puerperal Pyrexia	12	11	3
Pneumonia	37	4	—
Erysipelas	10	1*	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	6	2	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	1	0
Dysentery	1	1	0
Para-typhoid	1*	1*	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1*	1*	0

* Non-Civilian

The following table gives a summary of the Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis and Ophthalmia Neonatorum) notified during the year, and arranged in age periods:

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Encephalitis Lethargica
Age Periods						
0	—	—	4	—	—	—
1	—	—	3	—	—	—
2	2	1	1	—	—	—
3	2	7	3	—	—	—
4	4	11	3	—	—	—
5	36	66	2	—	—	—
10	7	19	2	—	—	—
15	3	4	4	2	2	—
25	2	1	4	—	7	—
35	—	1	4	1	3	—
45	—	—	4	2	—	1
65	—	—	3	5	—	—
And upwards	56	110	37	10	12	1

Diphtheria

The 110 cases were distributed amongst the parishes as follows:—

No. of Cases

Thorne	59
Stainforth	31
Hatfield	18
Sykehouse	2
Fishlake	0

They occurred during the year as follows:

		No of Cases
January	...	6
February	...	7
March	...	2
April	...	8
May	...	10
June	...	9
July	...	7
August	...	9
September	...	9
October	...	9
November	...	16
December	...	18

The Diphtheria case rate for the district works out at 4.88 per 1,000 population, whereas the rate for England is 1.6.

The Scarlet Fever case rate for the district is 1.64 per 1,000 population, whereas England's rate is 1.63.

Measles and Whooping Cough

Under provisional regulations which came into force on October 23rd, 1939, Measles and Whooping Cough became notifiable diseases. 283 cases of Measles have been notified. There were nine cases of Whooping Cough.

Puerperal Pyrexia

Of the 12 cases notified, 11 were treated in Edenfield Nursing Home, Doncaster, under arrangements made by the West Riding County Council.

Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations 1917

No vaccinations under these regulations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health during the year.

Tuberculosis

The following table gives a summary of the cases notified during the year, also of the deaths, arranged in age periods:—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
5	0	2	1	2	0	0	1	0
15	3	2	0	1	1	1	0	1
25	1	5	1	0	3	0	0	0
35	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
45	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	0
55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
And upwards	65	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
		7	10	4	5	7	2	1

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

CASES:

Notified	Treated at home	Treated in Hospital	Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
6	6	0	6	0	0	0

If any medical practitioner wishes to have a case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum treated in hospital, all he has to do is to apply to the County Medical Officer who will arrange for the treatment.

School Closures

There were no school closures during the year, but several have been visited by the Sanitary Inspector for purposes of disinfection when cases of diphtheria have been notified from children attending them.

Water Supply

A bacteriological examination of the water supplied by the Thorne and District Water Company, in January 1940, gave results as follows:—

Bacteriological Analysis.—“Presumptive *Bacillus Coli*: None in 100 ml. of water. The examination shows that this water is satisfactory according to the standard recommended by the Ministry of Health.”

Another examination of the water supplied in June 1940 gave a similar result:—

Bacteriological Analysis.—Presumptive *Bacillus Coli*: None in 100 ml. of water. The examination shows that the water is satisfactory according to the standard recommended by the Ministry of Health.

Sewerage

One small extension to the Council's sewers was carried out at Southfield Road.

Camping Sites

One licence has been granted under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. There was a slight increase in the number of vans owing to the gypsies leaving the coastal areas.

Smoke Abatement

Seven observations were made but no unsatisfactory conditions were found.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

Seventeen houses were found to be infested with Bed Bugs. All were treated effectively with insecticides.

SANITARY INSPECTORS' REPORT

Mr. B. Woodley and Mr. Wm. Bell report as follows:

Dairies and Cowsheds, etc.

149 Wholesale Traders on the Register.

62 Retail Traders on the Register.

All Cowsheds are inspected twice a year under Articles 1 and 25 Milk and Dairies Order 1926.

Shop Acts 1934

43 Shops inspected.

3 notices were served in respect of defective sanitary conveniences. They were complied with.

Common Lodging Houses

3 on Register.

All kept in satisfactory condition.

Canal Boats

188 on Register.

4 Inspected.

184 Boats in use.

Factories Act 1937

75 Factories in district.

House Scavenging

This is done by contract in the parishes of Thorne, Stainforth and Hatfield. It has been done satisfactorily.

Closet Accommodation in the District

No. of Box Closets, 154.

No. of Privies with Covered Middens, 981

No. of Water Closets, 5,261.

There were 25 conversions from box closets and privy middens to water closets during the year.

Bakehouses

9 Bakehouses on the Register.

All inspected during the year.

Slaughter Houses

12 Licensed Slaughter Houses on the Register up to November. No applications to renew the licences have been received.

Nuisances

Total number of Inspections during 1940, 93

Total number of Nuisances during 1940, 82.

Total number of Nuisances abated during 1940, 80.

Meat Inspection

The slaughtering of animals was prohibited as from 15th January 1940, and only emergency slaughtered animals have been inspected after that date.

Swimming Baths and Pools

There is one privately owned open-air swimming pool in Hatfield parish. It has been closed during 1940.

HOUSING

Number of New Houses erected during 1940

1	State Aided	...	...	...	...	...	none
	(a) by the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	none
	(b) by Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	...	none
	(Public Utility Societies, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...
2	Without State Aid	....	....	....	....	....	8

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :

1	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	61
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	65
2	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	nil
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	nil
3	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	
	Houses	nil
	Caravans	nil
4	Number of dwelling-houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	nil

2. Remedy of defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	39
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :

(a)—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	5
2	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By owners	5
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	nil

(b)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	12
2	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By owners	12
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	nil

(c)—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:

1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	nil
2	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	nil

(d)—Proceedings under sections 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

1	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	nil
2	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	nil

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding:

(a)—1	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	....	....	nil
2	Number of families dwelling therein	....	....	nil
3	Number of persons dwelling therein	....	....	nil
(b)—	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	....	....	nil
(c)—1	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	....	....	nil
2	Number of persons concerned in such cases	....	....	nil
(d)—	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	....	....	nil

